

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 13 and 14 are added. It is noted that the Office Action only addresses claims 1-6. As a result, it is respectfully requested that at least claims 7-12 be indicated as allowable in the next office action.

In the office action, claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 3,313,567 to Sturman. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is directed to a "blast protection system for protecting an asset from a blast force". Weight must be given to this feature in the preamble because other portions of the claim make reference to this feature and therefore breath life into this feature. In contrast, it is respectfully submitted that Sturman does not disclose a blast protection system of any form.

In addition, claim 1 includes a panel for receiving the blast force. In contrast, it is respectfully submitted that Sturman does not disclose a panel for receiving a blast force.

These same arguments apply to method claim 6.

In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that Sturman does not disclose each and every feature of claims 1-6 and, therefore, rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is inappropriate. As a result, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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